

09/855,458

REMARKS

In the Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment dated January 24, 2005, the Examiner submits that the letter "e" was improperly added to a word in claim 5. Specifically, the Examiner submits that in the previous amendment of October 29, 2003, the first word of claim 5 ("The") did not include the letter "e", but that in the communication filed by Applicants on November 12, 2004, the letter "e" was added.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the letter "e" has been present in claim 5 since the subject application was first filed, but that the letter "e" is obscured in the Image File Wrapper copy of the October 29, 2003 Amendment (e.g., perhaps due to a problem in the faxing or scanning of the Amendment). In further support of this contention, the Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the Amendment of July 18, 2003 and published United States Patent Application No. 20030033126, in which the letter "e" is clearly present in the disputed word. This issue concerning the IFW copy was brought to Examiner Smith's attention in a telephone conversation with Diana Rea on February 15, 2005.

In response, Examiner Smith suggested that Applicants re-send the October 29, 2003 Amendment to support the contention that the letter "e" is present therein. Thus, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, the Applicants have included herewith a copy of the October 29, 2003 Amendment as originally filed. The Applicants submit that the copy of the October 29, 2004 that is provided herewith has not been modified in relation to the originally filed Amendment.

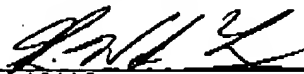
CONCLUSION

The Applicants thank Examiner Smith for the opportunity to correct the issues with regard to the Amendments of October 29, 2003 and November 12, 2004 and submit that, in light of the arguments presented above, the November 12, 2004 amendment is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action.

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If, however, the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

2/24/05

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